

VENTNOR  
(ISLE OF WIGHT)  
URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health  
Inspector

1968



## **MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman*—Councillor Miss B. E. M. Saunders, M.B.E.

*Councillors*—R. W. King, R. G. Morris, A. C. Parkhurst, O. H. F.  
Price and G. F. J. Rendall

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

### **Medical Officer of Health**

D. W. QUANTRILL, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,  
D.(Obst.)R.C.O.G.

Office: County Hall, Newport, I.W.

Telephone: NEWPORT 4031

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### **Public Health Inspector**

C. A. S. WATSON, M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerk*

MISS D. TOSDEVIN

*Rodent Operative*

MR. R. BURT

## VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December 1968

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ventnor Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1968.

There was no significant change in the birth rate and the rate for Ventnor (21.0) continued to be higher than that for England and Wales (16.9). There were eighty-eight live births, ten of which were illegitimate giving an illegitimacy rate of 11.4 per hundred, which was unusually high.

The death rate remained the same, approximately, and there were no infant deaths. The main causes of death were again coronary disease, stroke and cancer.

Infectious diseases did not present any problem although a widespread outbreak of German Measles in the Spring caused some concern as this disease can affect the unborn child if contracted early in pregnancy. No births of defective children, due to this epidemic, have been reported, however, and credit for this must be attributed to the vigilance of family doctors and midwives which enabled appropriate advice to be given to those at risk.

Members of the public continued to complain about the fouling of pavements by dogs. This menace is a danger to health and unless dog owners can be persuaded to co-operate, new legislation will be needed to control it.

During the year Mr. E. H. Evans, Public Health Inspector, resigned to take up an appointment in Cowes. He had been specially interested in food hygiene and the district benefited by his extensive experience in this field. I anticipated that it would be difficult to find a worthy replacement for Mr. Evans, but I have been impressed by the efforts of his successor, Mr. C. A. S. Watson, whose work is of a high standard.

No outbreaks of food poisoning were recorded and in spite of staff problems in many hotels and cafes, food hygiene continued to improve, and three or four establishments that have caused concern in previous years, have at last been brought up to standard.

Towards the end of the year I was granted leave of absence to lead a medical team in the Nigerian/Biafran civil war. This was a most rewarding and interesting venture and the Council's approval and encouragement was greatly appreciated. I am also grateful to Dr. A. M. Batten for so capably acting for me during my absence.

My thanks are again due to the staff of the department for their efficient work and loyalty.

Finally, may I respectfully express to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

D. W. QUANTRILL

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICS

### 1. GENERAL

|   |     |     |               |
|---|-----|-----|---------------|
| Total hours of sunshine during 1968     | ... | ... | 1,672.8 hours |
| Total rainfall during 1968              | ... | ... | 32.40 inches  |
| Area in acres                           | ... | ... | 3,562         |
| Number of inhabited houses (at 31.3.68) | ... | ... | 2,374         |
| Rateable value (at 1.4.68)              | ... | ... | £256,310      |
| Sum represented by 1d. rate (1967/68)   | ... | ... | £1,005        |

### 2. VITAL

|   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| Population (Registrar General's estimate) | ... | 6,300 |
|---|-----|-------|

#### *Births*

|  | M   | F   | Total        |
|--|-----|-----|--------------|
| Number of live legitimate births                           | 31  | 47  | 78           |
| Number of live illegitimate births                         | 2   | 8   | 10           |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population | ... | ... | 14.0         |
| Comparative factor (births)                                | ... | ... | 1.50         |
| Comparative birth rate                                     | ... | ... | 21.0         |
| Live birth rate per 1,000 in England and Wales             | ... | ... | 16.9 (prov.) |
| Number of legitimate stillbirths                           | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Number of illegitimate stillbirths                         | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths             | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Total live and stillbirths                                 | ... | ... | 88           |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births     | ... | ... | 11.4         |

#### *Deaths*

|   | M   | F   |              |
|---|-----|-----|--------------|
| Total number of deaths  | 67  | 62  | 129          |
| Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population           | ... | ... | 20.5         |
| Comparative factor (deaths)   | ... | ... | 0.62         |
| Comparative death rate  | ... | ... | 12.7         |
| Death rate in England and Wales                                       | ... | ... | 11.9 (prov.) |
| Number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age          | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Number of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age        | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births                       | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)                             | ... | ... | 18.0 (prov.) |
| Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births                        | ... | ... | Nil          |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births                  | ... | ... | Nil          |



**Statistics—continued**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths | ... .. Nil |
| Maternal deaths (including abortion)                          | ... Nil    |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths        | ... .. Nil |

**CAUSES OF DEATH**

|  | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus     | 4           | —             |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast             | —           | 4             |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus             | —           | 1             |
| Leukaemia                              | 1           | —             |
| Other malignant neoplasms, etc.        | 5           | 6             |
| Diabetes Mellitus                      | —           | 2             |
| Other Endocrine, etc., diseases        | 1           | —             |
| Meningitis                             | 1           | —             |
| Other diseases of nervous system, etc. | —           | 1             |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease        | —           | 1             |
| Ischaemic heart disease                | 13          | 10            |
| Other forms of heart disease           | 6           | 6             |
| Cerebrovascular disease                | 12          | 20            |
| Other diseases of circulatory system   | 2           | 4             |
| Influenza                              | 2           | —             |
| Pneumonia                              | 2           | 5             |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema               | 13          | 1             |
| Peptic ulcer                           | 2           | —             |
| All other accidents                    | 3           | 1             |
|  | —           | —             |
| <i>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</i>                | 67          | 62            |
|  | =           | =             |

**Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases**

Three cases of Measles, one of whooping cough and one of Erysipelas were notified during the year.

**Food Poisoning Outbreaks**

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Total number of outbreaks | ... .. Nil |
| Number of cases           | ... .. Nil |
| Number of deaths          | ... .. Nil |

**Infectious and other Diseases**

From the weekly returns of Head Teachers:

|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Measles        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31          |
| German measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 82          |
| Chickenpox     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15          |
| Whooping cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1           |
| Impetigo       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —           |
| Ringworm       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1           |
| Meningitis     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1           |
|                |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/>       |
|                |     |     |     |     |     |     | 131         |
|                |     |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> <hr/> |

**Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944**

|   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of samples taken during 1968             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| Number of samples found to be positive for      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tubercle Bacillus                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| isolated  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

# VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SALISBURY GARDENS,

VENTNOR, I.W.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Ventnor Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

By courtesy of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. D. W. Quantrill, this part of his report is presented separately, and my thanks are due to him for this privilege.

Before presenting my report I take great pleasure in expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee for their help and support, and also to the Chief Officers of the other departments and their staff who have never failed to give assistance and advice when called upon.

Part of the work outlined in this report relates to the work carried out by my predecessor Mr. E. H. Evans.

My especial thanks go to Miss D. Tosdevin, clerk/typist/telephone switchboard operator and Mr. R. Burt, Rodent Operative, whose enthusiasm and work have made a viable contribution to the environmental health of the district. During the year Mr. R. Norman, the Rodent Operative, resigned. Mr. R. Burt was appointed and has ensured that the vital service of rodent and pest control has been properly maintained.

I have been pleased to find that in Ventnor there is a continuing trend towards improved standards throughout the hotel trade and most food premises. There is also an increasing awareness of the general public to the need for cleanliness and food hygiene. The improvement of all aspects of environmental health must be continued by encouragement and where necessary enforcement.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. S. WATSON

*Public Health Inspector*



## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION

Work of the Public Health Inspector during 1968.

### Public Health Acts

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Premises inspected on complaint ... ..            | 227 |
| Nuisances observed ... ..                         | 176 |
| Revisits of all kinds ... ..                      | 459 |
| Visits to Holiday Accommodation ... ..            | 63  |
| Visits to caravans ... ..                         | 51  |
| Visits re housing accommodation ... ..            | 395 |
| Visits re water supplies ... ..                   | 153 |
| Visits re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ... | 121 |
| Visits re drainage work ... ..                    | 133 |
| Visits to licensed premises ... ..                | 27  |
| Routine visits ... ..                             | 169 |

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are two caravan sites within the Urban District, the total number of caravans on the two sites being 35.

### Food and Drugs Act, 1955

#### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

| <i>Category</i>                     | <i>Food<br/>Premises<br/>Total No.<br/>of Premises</i> | <i>Fitted<br/>to comply<br/>with<br/>Reg. 16</i> | <i>Reg. 19<br/>applicable</i> | <i>Fitted<br/>to comply<br/>with<br/>Reg. 19</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Bakehouses                          | 4  | 4  | 4                             | 4  |
| Fishmongers                         | 1  | 1  | 1                             | 1  |
| Butchers                            | 5  | 5  | 5                             | 5  |
| Dairies                             | 2  | 2  | —                             | —  |
| Greengrocers                        | 6  | 6  | —                             | —  |
| Grocers                             | 32   | 32   | 32                            | 32   |
| Cafes, etc.                         | 42   | 42   | 42                            | 42   |
| Licensed Premises }<br>Full Licence | 22   | 22   | 22                            | 22   |
| Fried Fish Shops                    | 2  | 2  | 2                             | 2  |
| Hotels Licensed                     | 35   | 35   | 35                            | 35   |
| Private Hotels                      | 29   | 29   | 29                            | 29   |
| Guest Houses                        | 60   | 60Y  | 60                            | Y  |

Y—Only a limited number have been inspected

Section 16, Food Hygiene (General Regulations) 1960, relates to provision of personal washing facilities and Regulation 19 deals with the facilities for washing food and equipment.

Regulation 19 does not apply where no open food is handled.

**Food Premises registered under Section 16,  
Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

*Registered for Ice Cream*

|               |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Grocers       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Confectioners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Kiosks        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| Fishmongers   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Cafes         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of loose ice cream but only two this year have exercised this right.

*Registered for the preparation of sausages*

|          |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Butchers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

*Registered for preservation of food (by cooking)*

|             |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Grocers     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Fried Fish  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Fishmongers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

**Premises registered under the  
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959**

|         |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

**Unsound Food**

The following food was surrendered for destruction:—

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11lbs. Chicory          | 11lbs. 2ozs. cherries   |
| 10lbs. Grapes           | 23lbs. 8ozs. cooked ham |
| 34½lbs. short loin pork | 2 × 56lbs. bun mix      |
| 112½lbs. plums          | 8 × 56lbs. onions       |
| 6 melons                | 3 × 24lbs. cauliflower  |

|  |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of food inspections                 | ... | ... | ... | 81  |
| Inspection of food premises                | ... | ... | ... | 282 |
| Walls and ceilings repaired or redecorated | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| W.C. repaired or cleansed                  | ... | ... | ... | 15  |
| Yards re-paved                             | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Dustbins                                   | ... | ... | ... | 17  |
| Equipment, floors, sinks                   | }   | ... | ... | 112 |
| Working surfaces, etc.                     |     | ... | ... |     |

A difficult problem facing Hoteliers, Caterers and the Council's Refuse Collection Department is the collection and disposal of waste food and general refuse, which accumulate at an alarming rate during the season.

The Health Department has continued to recommend the use of paper sacks in lieu of the traditional metal bin.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of houses represented under Section 16    | 4  |
| Number of demolition orders made ... ..          | 1  |
| Number of undertakings accepted ... ..           | 4  |
| Number of houses demolished ... ..               | 1  |
| Number of houses fit as results of undertakings  | 3  |
| Number of houses made fit by informal action ... | 15 |

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### (a) *Public Supply*

The Urban District is supplied with drinking water by the Isle of Wight River and Water Authority.

The water is chlorinated and treated and is not liable to Plumbo Solvency.

The sampling of the water is carried out at source, and otherwise by the Board and copies of the reports are supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector.

The total number of samples notified to the Public Health Inspector were as follows:—

|                    |                     |                       |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Total taken</i> | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
| 140                | 115                 | 25                    |

#### (b) *Private Supplies*

Five properties have private water supplies, these are regularly checked, and periodical samples are taken to the Public Health Laboratories, Portsmouth, with the following results:—

|                    |                     |                       |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Total taken</i> | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
| 22                 | 11                  | 11                    |

### PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

Four hotels and two schools have private swimming pools which are regularly visited and samples taken. Unsatisfactory results were due to failure in equipment, lack of adequate private chlorine testing apparatus and insufficient attention to pH values.

|                    |                     |                       |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Total taken</i> | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
| 34                 | 19                  | 15                    |



### CHILDREN'S PADDLING POOL

Careful attention was given to this pool during the year and the daily frequency of chlorination increased to ensure complete coverage while in use.

|                    |                     |                       |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Total taken</i> | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
| 13                 | 8                   | 5                     |

### RODENT CONTROL

The number of complaints concerning rats or mice has remained practically as in previous years, many of the complaints are found to be concerned with a stray rat or mice infestation. The total number of visits by the Rodent Operative including routine visits was 3,335.

As a result of negative results in the sewer baiting the Ministry of Agriculture have granted this Council exemption from sewer baiting until 1970.

#### Contract Scheme

This is a very successful scheme and must have great bearing on our control of the rodent population. The number of premises participating is now 73, an increase from last year of 6.

#### Infestations

Complaints of insect pests were:—

|                    |    |                   |    |
|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Cockroaches ... .. | 14 | Beetles ... ..    | 4  |
| Woodlice ... ..    | 2  | Bees ... ..       | 1  |
| Fleas ... ..       | 3  | Wasp nests ... .. | 11 |
| Ants ... ..        | 8  |                   |    |

A charge of 5/- is levied in respect of each wasp nest destroyed.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Statistics have been supplied to the Ministry of Labour for the year ending December 31st, 1968, in accordance with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The details in the prescribed Form (O.S.R.14) are as follows:—

TABLE A

| <i>Class of Premises</i>                                    | <i>Number of Premises registered during year</i> | <i>Total Number registered at end of year</i> | <i>Number of General Inspections</i> |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Offices ... ..  | Nil  | 19  | 5                                    |
| Retail Shops ... ..   | 6  | 66  | 32                                   |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ... ..                          | Nil  | 7   | 3                                    |
| Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens ... .. | 1  | 56  | 24                                   |
| Fuel Storage Depots ...                                     | Nil  | 3   | Nil                                  |

TABLE B

|   |  |  |  |  |  |     |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises ... .. |  |  |  |  |  | 121 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----|

TABLE C

**Analysis of persons employed in registered premises**

| <i>Class of Workplace</i>                         | <i>No. of persons employed</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Offices ... ..                                    | 137                            |
| Retail shops ... ..                               | 314                            |
| Wholesale Departments, Warehouses ... ..          | 29                             |
| Catering Establishments open to the public ... .. | 492                            |
| Canteens ... ..                                   | 20                             |
| Fuel storage depots ... ..                        | 7                              |
| Total   | 999                            |
| Total Males ... ..                                | 238                            |
| Total Females ... ..                              | 761                            |

**REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The refuse collection and disposal service is carried out by the Surveyor. A weekly collection of domestic refuse is maintained, and during the season a twice-weekly collection of trade refuse is made from hotels and boarding houses.

Disposal is carried out by tipping on the outskirts of Wroxall. The tip is checked regularly by the Rodent Operative and has been treated when found necessary.

Spraying for flies is carried out during the summer months.

**SEWERAGE**

Sewer arrangements are as follows:—

Bonchurch at the eastern end is served by (a) cesspools and (b) modern septic tank systems. One large holiday establishment has a private sewer outfall discharging below low water mark.

St. Lawrence in the west is partly served by modern septic tank systems and partly by discharge into a small sewerage works.

The central area sewage is discharged untreated via a comminutor through an outfall to below low water mark.

The outlying village of Wroxall is sewered to a disposal plant, the effluent after treatment being discharged into an adjoining ditch.

The Council operate a cesspool emptying service which has functioned very well during the year.



FACTORIES ACT

Inspection for purpose of provisions as to health:—

| <i>Premises</i>   | <i>Number<br/>on<br/>Register</i> | <i>Inspec-<br/>tions</i> | <i>Written<br/>Notices</i> | <i>Occupiers<br/>Prosecuted</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3,<br>4 and 6 are to be enforced by<br>Local Authorities ... ..                     | 1                                 | 3                        | —                          | —                               |
| Factories not included above in<br>which Section 7 is enforced by<br>Local Authorities ... ..                         | 24                                | 15                       | 1                          | —                               |
| Other premises in which Section 7<br>is enforced by Local Authorities<br>(excluding out-workers premi-<br>ses) ... .. | —                                 | —                        | —                          | —                               |
|   | 25                                | 18                       | 1                          | —                               |



